



PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A NEW CHILDCARE FACILITY IN ELY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local leaders in Ely identified the need to support the development of a daycare facility in the area to provide working families with additional child care options for children ages six weeks – five years.

The Boys & Girls Club is willing to expand its local services to include this age demographic, and a building has been identified for the program. The project has an estimated cost of \$1.5 million, which includes \$925,000 to rehabilitate the building and \$575,000 as start-up funds for the program.

CURRENT DAYCARE SITUATION IN ELY

Ely currently has two licensed childcare facilities in the area:

- **Magic Carpet Preschool** provides services for up to 42 students ages 3-5 from September through May. The Preschool is open from 7:00 am – 5:30 pm Monday – Friday. There are no income restrictions for this program and there is an hourly charge for attendees.
- **Little People's Head Start** provides services for up to 86 students ages birth to five years. These services are offered Monday - Thursday from September through June from 7:45 am – 3 pm. 90% of the slots are income-dependent slots, and a family of four only qualifies if they earn less than \$26k per year.

According to the latest census data, 5.3 percent (512) of the White Pine County population are within the 0-5 age group. The Robinson mine, the largest private employer in White Pine County, reported that 177 children 0-5 were enrolled on their health insurance plan as of October 7, 2021.

Assuming the two licensed daycare facilities have the staffing necessary to operate at capacity, they are able to serve a maximum of 128 children. This means that the number of children outnumbers the licensed care slots by three to one, leaving working parents in Ely to rely on family or unlicensed facilities to care for their children. In the worst case, parents decide to remove themselves entirely from the workforce to care for their children. The insufficient licensed options also deter outside families from moving to the area, even if employers offer a competitive salary and benefits package.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

To alleviate the child care issue, local leaders explored several projects to create an additional daycare facility in White Pine County. The proposed project would transform an existing building owned by White Pine School District into a daycare with the capacity to serve up to 70 children ages 0 to 5 years old.

The potential site for the new daycare facility is an old Kindergarten building owned by the White Pine County School District, who agreed to enter into a long-term lease on the building for a nominal cost. This building has been vacant for several years and will require significant repairs to transform it into a functional daycare. Nonetheless, the repairs will cost significantly less than building a new facility, as the property already has adequate space for parking and a playground area. With additional upgrades to these areas and the remodeled square footage of the existing facility, the daycare will serve 65-70 children Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm.

The year-round and affordable daycare facility would be operated by the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows (BGCTM). BGCTM opened its first location in White Pine County in June 2017, serving approximately 50 school-aged members. Since then, the Club has grown to five sites housed in local schools serving more than 500 members annually ranging in ages from 5-18. The Club is open five days a week and fifty-one weeks per year to inspire and enable youth to become responsible, productive and caring citizens.

While BGCTM's primary purpose remains serving school-aged children, their expansion into early learning became a natural extension of the mission, allowing them to better serve whole families. They currently operate four Early Learning Centers (ELCs) in Reno, serving 440 children between six weeks old and five years of age.

The new ELC in Ely will provide quality child care focused on kindergarten readiness regarding social-emotional skills, numeracy, and literacy. This program will charge a weekly fee and will have financial aid available to those who qualify.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

BGCTM performed a preliminary architectural assessment on the identified property and estimates it will cost approximately \$925,000 to rehabilitate the building, playground, and parking lot. Renovations are anticipated to last nine months, assuming contractors can complete the repairs promptly. The cost of the projects are summarized as follows:

\$25,000	Architectural Design
\$350,000	Remodel Existing Structure
\$250,000	Replace Existing Playground Area
\$300,000	Design and Rework Existing Parking and Outside area

In addition to the rehabilitation of the building, BGCTM is requesting \$400,00 for first-year operating costs and \$175,000 to establish a maintenance reserve account for future construction and repairs as it typically takes one year to achieve fiscal sustainability with new programs. The daycare project on Murry Street will have a total cost of \$1,500,000. BGCTM requires financial commitments to begin the renovation project and plan the program's operation, and is currently seeking various funding opportunities via the American Rescue Plan, private businesses, and individual donors.

REQUEST TO THE CITY OF ELY

While we are not past this pandemic, the community's needs are shifting and a collaborative effort among local government, private businesses and nonprofit organizations is needed for Nevada to recover and build back stronger, especially as we battle the labor shortage. This endeavor will greatly contribute to the recovery of our economy as it will provide a safe, flexible and affordable place for the children of those returning to the workforce. With support from the City Council, the business community, and the residents, there is increased optimism that this new daycare will soon be a reality.